

Double Counting Suggestions

The over-riding question to ask in the evaluation of previously-earned credit for use with additional endorsements is, “Is this candidate prepared to be an effective teacher in this specialty area?” Candidates should have completed coursework in the specialty area that meets State standards, they should be prepared to pass the MTTC, they should have at least the minimum number of semester hours required by the institution for the additional endorsement (the state default is 18, unless specifically stated by rule or policy – see http://www.michigan.gov/documents/minhrsarefchart_21931_7.doc) and the coursework completed should parallel the coursework required in the institution’s approved program.

Each institution sets policies for the evaluation of previous coursework from returning post-baccalaureate candidates - those seeking initial certification and those returning for continuing professional development, master’s programs, or additional endorsements. Policies include setting limits on the length of time since previous coursework was completed.

If candidates return to earn additional endorsements, coursework must meet university requirements and State standards. Just counting credits in the specialty area is not sufficient.

Institutions should use “common sense” in the interpretation of Rule 28. Evaluators should look to see what a candidate is missing in the coursework/experiences required in their state-approved program. They might also take into consideration what the candidate has been doing since the previous coursework was taken. For example: A teacher earned an RX endorsement 15 years ago and has been teaching American history each year since that time. Teacher is now returning for history endorsement and the institution’s policy is that only coursework previously taken less than 10 years ago can be “counted” toward the new endorsement. This teacher should not have to take an introductory American history class again; advanced coursework could substitute for that requirement in their approved program.

As a result of NCLB, greater flexibility may be needed regarding the evaluation of courses to meet the “highly qualified” criteria.